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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AGENCY

THE 1945 LEGUME AND GRASS SEED PROGRAM

Legume and grass seed is needed in this country and throughout the world to replant the fields shifted to the production of other crops under the stress of war. Here are some facts and figures for the use of those who have news, radio, educational and administrative responsibilities in connection with the nation's 1945 effort to stimulate legume and grass seed production.

Good returns are assured farmers who harvest hay and pasture seeds in 1945. Special assistance is available to farmers through the AAA program. Payments up to \$3.50 per acre will be made for harvesting red clover, alsike clover, and alfalfa. In addition, a payment of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound will be made for alfalfa and alsike clover seed, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound for red clover seed harvested and moved into commercial channels during 1945.

The 1945 Goals

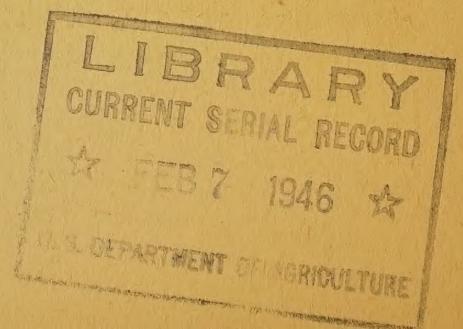
For 1945 the total legume seed goal is 2 percent higher than in 1944, for cover crop seed, 41 percent higher, and for all tame hay, 6 percent higher. Here are the figures:

	<u>1944 Indicated</u> (Thousand Acres)	<u>1945 Goal</u> (Thousand Acres)	<u>Goal as per-</u> <u>cent of 1944</u>
All Tame Hay	59,547	62,862	106
Hay Seeds—Legume	4,783	4,899	102
Cover Crop Seeds	333	469	141
Totals	64,663	68,230	106

(Hay seeds include alfalfa, red, alsike, sweet and ladino clover, and lespedeza. Cover crop seeds include hairy vetch, common and Willamette Vetch, Austrian Winter Peas, crimson clover and common ryegrass)

Red clover, alfalfa and alsike clover seed was harvested in 1944 from 3,214,000 acres. The 1945 goal calls for a production of 190,000,000 pounds of seed, which, with average yields, will come from 3,300,000 acres. With the red clover seed goal the same as the 1944 acreage, this means a large acreage increase in alfalfa and alsike clover.

Due to unfavorable production conditions in 1944, alfalfa seed supplies are especially short at the present time. Alsike clover seed production has been on the decline since 1940. Last year's large crop of red clover seed is a measure of what can be done and a guide to seed production in 1945.



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Here are the figures on acreage and production in 1944 and the goals for 1945:

	<u>1944 Production</u>		<u>1945 Goals</u>	
	Thousand Acres	Thousand Pounds	Thousand Acres	Thousand Pounds
Alfalfa	963	54,672	1,113	80,000
Red Clover	2,145	85,992	2,008	90,000
Alsike Clover	107	10,596	179	20,000
Total (3 crops)	3,214	151,260	3,300	190,000

Loan Program

In addition to special payments and other inducements, non-recourse loans also will be available to farmers on certain hay and pasture seeds produced in 1945. To qualify for such loans certain definite procedures must be followed as to cleaning, bagging, tagging and delivery to warehouse. The following loan rates apply to the different seeds included in the loan program when the standards for purity and germination are met:

Loan Rates on Various Seeds

	<u>Cents per Pound</u>			<u>Cents per Pound</u>	
	<u>Common Seed</u>	<u>Certified Seed</u>		<u>Common Seed</u>	<u>Certified Seed</u>
<u>LEGUME SEEDS</u>			<u>GRASS SEEDS</u>		
Alfalfa			Bahia Grass	20	30
Northern	33	40	Little Bluestem and		
Central	30	37	Big Bluestem	20	25
Southern	26	33	Sand Bluestem	25	—
Okla. "app. origin"	30	—	Smooth Bromegrass	—	15
Red Clover	28	34	Buffalo Grass	40	50
Alsike Clover	25	—	Dallis Grass	20	—
Alyce Clover	18	—	Blue Grama	15	—
Biennial White			Side Oats Grama	20	25
Sweetclover	9	15	Orchard Grass	22	25
Biennial Yellow			Sudan Grass	4	6
Sweetclover	9	15	Switchgrass	20	25
Biennial Mixed			Timothy	4.5	9
Sweetclover	8	—	Crested Wheatgrass	7	—
Black Medic	20	—	Slender Wheatgrass	7	—
Cluster Clover and			Western Wheatgrass	10	—
Persian Clover	25	—	Weeping Lovegrass	50	—
Yellow Hop Clover	35	—			
Hubam (Texas only)	10	—			
Ladino Clover	—	150			
Tenn. #76 Lespedeza					
& Common Lespedeza	20	—	Some seed mixtures are included in the price support program. Korean lespe- deza is not included in the program		
Kobe Lespedeza	15	—			
White Clover (Ala., Fla., Ga., La., & Miss. only)	50	—			
Sericea Lespedeza	15	—			

Seed Harvest and Hay Production

Harvesting of the alfalfa seed goal acreage of 1,113,000 acres from the present total planted acreage would result in not more than 3 percent reduction in U. S. production of alfalfa hay. With average yields, this would supply enough seed for sowing about 6 million acres of alfalfa. For the individual farmer, the reduction in hay production should not cause a feeding problem. Harvesting seed from 3 acres, for example, would reduce the year's hay crop by approximately 3 tons, and should supply seed for planting about 20 acres of alfalfa next year.

Sudan for Hay

Farmers who save their alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover to be cut for seed may need a supplementary hay supply to make up the difference. For much of the country Sudan grass will serve the purpose. It is widely adapted, grows rapidly and produces an abundance of hay. With warm weather it matures for hay in about 75 to 80 days. It is especially good for pasture in July and August. Yields from 2 to 4 tons of cured hay are common, and, under irrigation, yields run as high as 8 to 10 tons.

Some Seed Facts

In 1944, U. S. farmers harvested a total of 773,455,000 pounds of clean seed of important legumes and other hay and pasture crops. Even this high production did not meet world needs. Estimates are that farmers this year would plant 20 percent more alfalfa and clover seed if supplies were sufficient.

From the 1944 harvest only about one million pounds of red clover seed, approximately one-seventh of the quantity requested, could be spared for allied countries. Shipments of alfalfa and alsike seed also were considerably smaller than desired. This year, allied requirements for clover and alfalfa seed may total 30 million pounds.

Red clover and alfalfa, being adapted to varying climates and soils, are the two most important U. S. tame hay crops. With alsike, these crops provided at least 40 percent of the country's total of 57 million acres of tame hay in 1944.

On the average, about 12 million acres of alfalfa and clovers (chiefly red and alsike), must be seeded yearly. Merely to maintain the acreage requires about 150 million pounds of these seeds each year. The 1945 production goal is 190 million pounds. That leaves a narrow margin for increasing hay acreage, overseas shipments and a safe carry-over.

The protein in legume hay from 12 million acres equals the protein in 12 million acres of grass hay plus four million tons of high-protein meal. Protein, stored in the leaves and branches of alfalfa and clovers, is an important feed requirement. Nitrogen from the roots of legumes enriches the soil. Legumes, therefore, do double duty and are doubly valuable in restoring war-worn soils and re-establishing farms.

Month-by-Month Suggestions

The foregoing facts and figures are intended as a brief and handy source of reference for those with information and educational responsibilities. Following are some specific and timely subject matter suggestions for use during the months indicated:

May SEED CROPS ARE IMPORTANT Alfalfa and clover seeds especially important this year. Keep more land in hay so some acreage can be left for seed. Summer hay and pasture crops such as Sudan grass will help save legume acreage for seed.

May SEED CROPS GET ATTENTION That clover field can be source of additional income if seed is harvested. Stop pasturing alsike and ladino clover in May to get good growth. Provide extra summer pasture by seeding Sudan grass or other summer forage crop. Harvest clover seed this year.

May - June BEES AID LEGUME SEED PRODUCTION Bees, honey bees, wild bees, bumble bees and lots of them; that's what it takes to get proper pollination of clover and alfalfa bloom. Average yield of clover seed is about one bushel per acre, but many farmers get ten bushels when clover is fully pollinated. One colony of bees per acre is a good program, if placed within 1/4 mile of field.

May - June SELECT FIELDS FOR SEED PRODUCTION NOW Clover and alfalfa fields from which seed is to be harvested need special attention. Early harvesting of first crop for hay is particularly important for medium red clover. One hive of bees per acre within quarter mile of field is a measure which makes for better pollination and bigger yield of seed.

May - June SEED HARVEST IN THE SOUTH In next few weeks southern farmers will harvest legume seeds for better crops in following years. Seed supplies are very short; seeds must be harvested wherever possible this year. Hairy vetch especially important in Georgia-to-Arkansas area. Blue lupine important in the Gulf Coast area. Crimson clover and winter peas seed can be harvested in many areas. White clover and other clover seed should be harvested where there is crop of seed.

May - June EXTRA FORAGE CROPS AID LEGUME SEED HARVEST Summer forage crops make good pasture or hay and leave the legumes for seed production. Idle land should be seeded to Sudan, millet or sorghum for extra forage. Korean lespedeza will be the best pasture crop in many fields. Fields where early seeded crops are poor because of flood or drought may well be used for growing a forage crop. Fields damaged by erosion, insects or freezes may be made to grow extra pasture or hay. Headlands and feed lots can be put to growing forage crops. Extra forage crops will provide livestock feed so that clover or alfalfa can be harvested for seed this year.

May - June MORE ALFALFA AND CLOVER SEED NEEDED Harvest alfalfa or clover seed this year. After corn planting is time to seed Sudan grass or other summer forage crops for extra pasture or hay. This makes it possible to save alfalfa or clover for seed.

May - June ORCHARD GRASS SEED FOR EXPORT About two-thirds of our orchard grass seed harvest goes to England and Low Countries in Europe for pasture and hay crops. Therefore the high price for this seed in recent years. Our farmers want more of this seed too. Until Denmark is able to again supply this seed to western Europe, we are the supplier of orchard grass seed.

June MORE RED CLOVER SEED PER ACRE The yield of medium red clover seed will be much larger if first crop for hay is harvested early. Harvest first crop for hay when plants are one-half to two-thirds in bloom; this is 10 days earlier than normal.

June - July ALSIKE CLOVER SEED HARVEST IS NEAR Harvest alsike clover seed when hulls enclosing seed are brown. Cutting when damp with dew prevents shattering of seed. A big increase over last year's harvest is needed to get enough seed.

June - July SEEDS COME FIRST First the seed, then the plant, after that the harvest. Seeds of clover, alfalfa and grasses must be harvested this year for planting next year. Millions of pounds are needed each year and harvest time is at hand. A big increase in harvest of clover and alfalfa seed necessary this year to supply seed needed by our farmers.

June - July GRASS SEEDS FOR HAY AND PASTURE CROPS Harvesting grass seeds is an important job this year. To keep our forage supply adequate it is necessary that we have a plentiful supply of seed. Goals for grass seeds call for harvesting about same acreage in 1945 as in 1944.

June - July LADINO CLOVER SEED NEEDED BY DAIRYMEN Eastern dairy farmers find ladino clover especially good as pasture. Therefore, they are paying high prices to get this seed. Most of this seed is harvested in Pacific Coast States. To harvest more seed California and Oregon farmers are providing other summer pasture so a seed crop can be produced in their ladino pastures. A good crop of ladino seed is way of adding to farm income. Seed is ready for harvest 3 to 4 weeks after blooming. Twice as much seed as last year is goal.

July SWEETCLOVER SEED HARVEST Sweetclover seed supplies have been short during war years. More seed needed. Farmers with sweetclover can get additional income by harvesting seed crop. Yield will be higher if honey bees are within quarter mile of field to increase cross-pollination. To reduce loss from shattering harvest before all seed is mature and early in the day while wet with dew.

July - August DEW AIDS SEED HARVEST Seed heads of clover do not shatter so readily when wet with dew. Cutting and windrowing in morning will save more seed. Attachment to windrow or bunch when cutting saves work and seed. Harvest clover seed this year!

July - August ALFALFA SEED HARVEST CALL Alfalfa seed is high priced. Harvest all you can. There is urgent need for more alfalfa seed than was harvested last year. Harvest when two-thirds to three-fourths of pods are brown. Cut in morning when damp with dew to avoid shattering. Thin stands often yield good crop of seed. Harvest alfalfa seed this year.

August - September RED CLOVER SEED HARVEST TIME IS HERE Harvest red clover for seed when seed hulls are brown. Cutting in morning when wet with dew reduces loss from shattering. Windrow when cutting to reduce work and prevent loss of seed. Red clover seed is high priced. Harvest all you can.

The following table showing the beginning of the 1944 harvest season in the various States will serve as a guide for the 1945 season:

State	Alfalfa	Red Clover	Alsike Clover	Ladino Clover	Sweet Clover
Arizona	August 4				
California	September 4			August 1	
Colorado	September 18				August 7
Idaho	September 18	September 19	August 9	August 15	
Illinois		September 1	July 14		July 28
Indiana	September 18	September 4	July 14		July 20
Iowa	September 24	September 17	July 10		July 28
Kansas	September 4	August 27			July 28
Kentucky		August 20			
Maryland		September 1			
Michigan	September 24	September 10	July 20		August 25
Minnesota	September 18	September 19	August 9		August 18
Missouri		August 20			July 28
Montana	September 24				August 30
Nebraska	September 24				August 7
New Mexico	August 20				
New York		September 23			
North Dakota	October 7				September 3
Ohio	September 24	September 4	July 14		July 20
Oklahoma	August 20				
Oregon	September 24	September 10	August 3	August 10	
Pennsylvania		September 23			
South Dakota	September 28				August 18
Texas	August 20				
Utah	September 18				
Virginia		August 20			
Washington	September 28	September 17			
Wisconsin	October 2	September 15	July 20		August 25
Wyoming	September 28				August 25